



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Steven Glazer
Chair, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 37 (Bonta) Political Reform Act of 1974: campaign funds: security expenses**
City of Beverly Hills - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chair Glazer,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am writing to respectfully **OPPOSE AB 37 (Bonta) UNLESS AMENDED**. This legislation addresses a critical issue affecting candidates, elected officials, and their families and staff – the need for enhanced security measures in response to growing threats; however, we would encourage amendments to establish a reasonable cap on such expenses.

In an era where threats and harassment against public officials have become more prevalent, this bill aids elected officials in providing funding for security expenses. As highlighted in Assemblymember Bonta's statement "*... we have seen an increase in threats against public officials, especially women, and harassment against legislative staff who are serving the constituents who elected us to office... Political violence is never the answer. When reactionary elements fan the flames of violence, they are putting candidates and elected officials squarely in their sights. Holding public office is about serving your community, but we never signed up for violence, and our families and children must be protected.*"

Current laws governing the use of campaign funds for security expenses impose limitations that, in many cases, are insufficient to provide adequate protection. While AB 37 revises these regulations by extending the coverage of allowable security-related expenses and removes the requirement for threats to be verified by law enforcement prior to expenditure, it also eliminates the \$5,000 cap on expenses related to home or office electronic security systems. Without a cap on reasonable expenses, the City of Beverly Hills cannot support this bill. We are also concerned that the protection for immediate family members and staff could be abused without better safeguards in place.

The City of Beverly Hills recognizes AB 37 not only serves to protect those already in office but also seeks to uphold the essence of public service; however, we cannot support this bill

without a cap on reasonable expenses or a narrower definition on whom the campaign funds can be expended on for security. For these reasons, the City of Beverly respectfully **OPPOSES AB 37 (Bonta) UNLESS AMENDED.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Mia Bonta, Assemblymember, 18th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange